

Amendments to the Drawings:

The drawings were objected to by the Examiner's Draftsperson. As required, the attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1, 3 and 6-9. These sheets replace the original sheets including Figs. 1, 3A, 3B, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

In Figure 1, the previously omitted labeling of the blocks has been added.

In Figures 3 and 6-9, poor line quality has been corrected.

In Figures 3A, 3B, and 6-9, solid black shading lines have been omitted.

Applicants also respectfully submit replacement sheets to include changes to Figs. 2 and 4. In Figures 2 and 4, poor line quality and solid black shading lines have been corrected.

Figure 5 has been replaced so that all drawings are now uniform in print, style and format.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets

Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Independent claims 1 and 13 have been amended to add the limitations that the monitoring system comprises a web server and means for communicating gathered data via the web server. Claim 1 also now includes the additional limitations that the data is communicated to a remote location via the web server and that the gathered data is stored at the web server. Support for the amendment can be found in the application as originally filed, for example, at Page 5, lines 13-17, Page 7, line 31 to Page 8, line 3, Page 9, lines 3-6 and Figures 2 and 4.

Claim 2 has been amended to add the limitation that the means for displaying the gathered data includes communication of the gathered data over the Internet or an intranet. Support for the amendment can be found in the application as originally filed, for example, at Page 5, lines 13-17.

Claim 3 has been amended to include the limitation that the calculated data is stored at a database associated with said web server. Support for the amendment can be found in the application as originally filed including, for example, at Page 9, lines 23-26, Page 14, lines 9-15 and Figure 4.

Claims 10 and 11 have been amended to replace the word "information" with the words "gathered data and the calculated data" as the word "information" has no specific antecedent basis in parent claim 1. Support for the amendment can be found in the application as originally filed including, for example, at Page 14, lines 25-33, Page 15, lines 1-2 and Figures 2 and 4.

Claim 21 has been amended to add the limitations that gathered data or calculated data are communicated to the display over the Internet or an intranet. Support for the amendment can be found in the application as originally filed including, for example, at Page 5, lines 13-17, Page 10, lines 16-19 and Figures 2 and 4.

Claim 22 has been amended to include the limitation that the communication layer communicates the stored data over the Internet or an intranet. Support for this amendment is found within the application as originally filed, for example, at Page 14, lines 26-28, and Figures 2 and 4.

Claim 23 has been amended to include the limitation that the method includes communicating the data by the Internet or an intranet. Support for this amendment is found within the application as originally filed, for example, at Page 14, lines 26-28, and Figures 2 and 4.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and continued examination of this application in view of the amendment and the following remarks:

1. **Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-33 are pending in this application.

2. **Prior Art Rejections**

Claims 1-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0148047 A1 by Dismukes et al. ("Dismukes").

3. **Dismukes Does Not Teach or Suggest a Manufacturing Monitoring System Having a Web Server.**

Independent claims 1 and 13, and all claims dependent thereon, are patentable over Dismukes. Dismukes does not teach or suggest utilizing a web server with the monitoring system disclosed therein. There is no mention in that reference of a web server, or for that matter, the web in general. As way of review, Applicants would like to direct the Examiner's attention to Page 8, lines 1-2 of the Applicants' application which points out that in the preferred embodiment, the Applicants' invention can be used in monitoring not only a plurality of machines and assembly lines of a given plant, but also can simultaneously monitor the machines and assembly lines of a plurality of plants. Moreover, this can be accomplished on a real time basis.

It is common for manufacturers and industrial processing companies to have more than one plant. Often their plants may have similar equipment and/or lines operating in each plant. It is advantageous and efficient that a single skilled person be able to simultaneously compare the operation efficiencies of lines or equipment of one plant to that of another. For example, if such person notices a problem or inefficiency occurring in one plant, he may desire to immediately determine if this problem is also a current concern in other plant locations. If so, he may prioritize addressing solutions to such a common problem as opposed to a problem or concern which is only occurring in one plant. Moreover, by having the ability to monitor multiple plants simultaneously from one location, a manufacturer can save on labor and training costs in that each plant does not need to have its own dedicated person to monitor operations.

The use of the web server also allows, if desired, a company's most talented and experienced individual to access in real time the gathered data and calculated data to provide solutions and suggestions to any problem which may be occurring. As the cost of downtime is often very substantial for a manufacturer, it is advantageous that the most skilled person in the company, regardless of physical location, be able to access data to immediately provide the best solution relative to a particular problem. The ability to do so is becoming ever the more important as many companies continue to expand manufacturing locations overseas. This is particularly true in view of the fact that many of the overseas locations are unlikely to have the highest skilled technical personnel employed by the company. With the Applicants' monitoring system, a single skilled person based in the United States for example, can monitor and analyze production equipment and lines located in overseas plants, and immediately make correctible suggestions concerning inefficient production lines. He may also monitor and analyze any changes to a remote plant's line configuration to

quickly advise the remote plant if such changes have been successfully optimized.

The Applicants' web based monitoring system allows all the above noted advantages whereas the system of Dismukes does not accomplish these valuable advancements of the art.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 13, and all claims dependent thereon are patentable over Dismukes.

4. Dismukes Does Not Teach or Suggest the Use of the Internet or an Intranet in Its Monitoring System or Method.

Applicants submit that amended independent claims 22 and 23 are patentable over Dismukes because Dismukes does not teach or suggest the use of the Internet or an intranet to communicate data with the monitoring system or method disclosed therein. This is also true relative to amended dependent claims 2 and 21 which have been amended to include the Internet or an intranet limitations.

Applicants respectfully point out that it believes that the Examiner has misread Dismukes as teaching the use of the Internet or an intranet. The Examiner in his rejection of claims 10, 20 and 26 states that communication over the Internet is disclosed in Dismukes in the abstract and/or claims 8 or 71 thereof. Dismukes does not make mention of the Internet or an intranet in the referenced locations, nor any other location. Dismukes does use the term linking, but the word "linking" is not used in the sense of linking such as which is accomplished by the Internet or an intranet. Dismukes uses this term with a totally different meaning not relating in any manner or sense to the Internet or an intranet. Dismukes' use of the word, "linking" relates to [0275] "linkage rules and algorithms" such as mathematically determining the relationship between subsystems being employed in a series vs. parallel architecture.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that amended claims 22 and 23, as well as dependent claims 2 and 21, are patentable over Dismukes.

5. Drawings

In amended Figure 1, the previously omitted labeling of the blocks has been added.

In addition, Applicants have corrected the poor line quality in Figures 3 and 6-9. In Figures 3A, 3B, and 6-9, the solid black shading lines have been omitted.

Applicants have also corrected the poor line quality and solid black shading lines in Figures 2 and 4.

Figure 5 has been replaced so that all drawings are now uniform in print, style and format.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, all of the rejections have been overcome and claims 1-33 are allowable. An early indication of allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

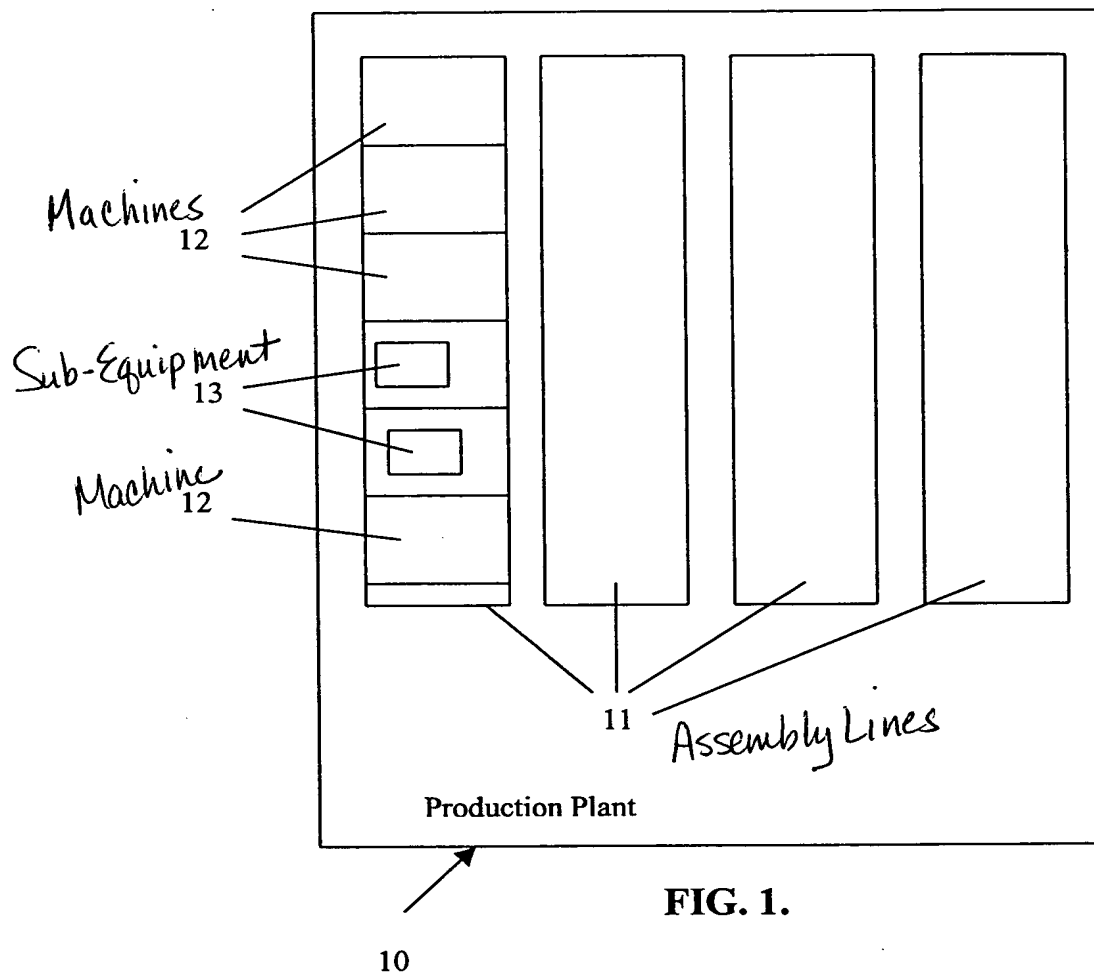
Eric H. Weimers
Reg. No. 33,048

Date: October 21, 2005

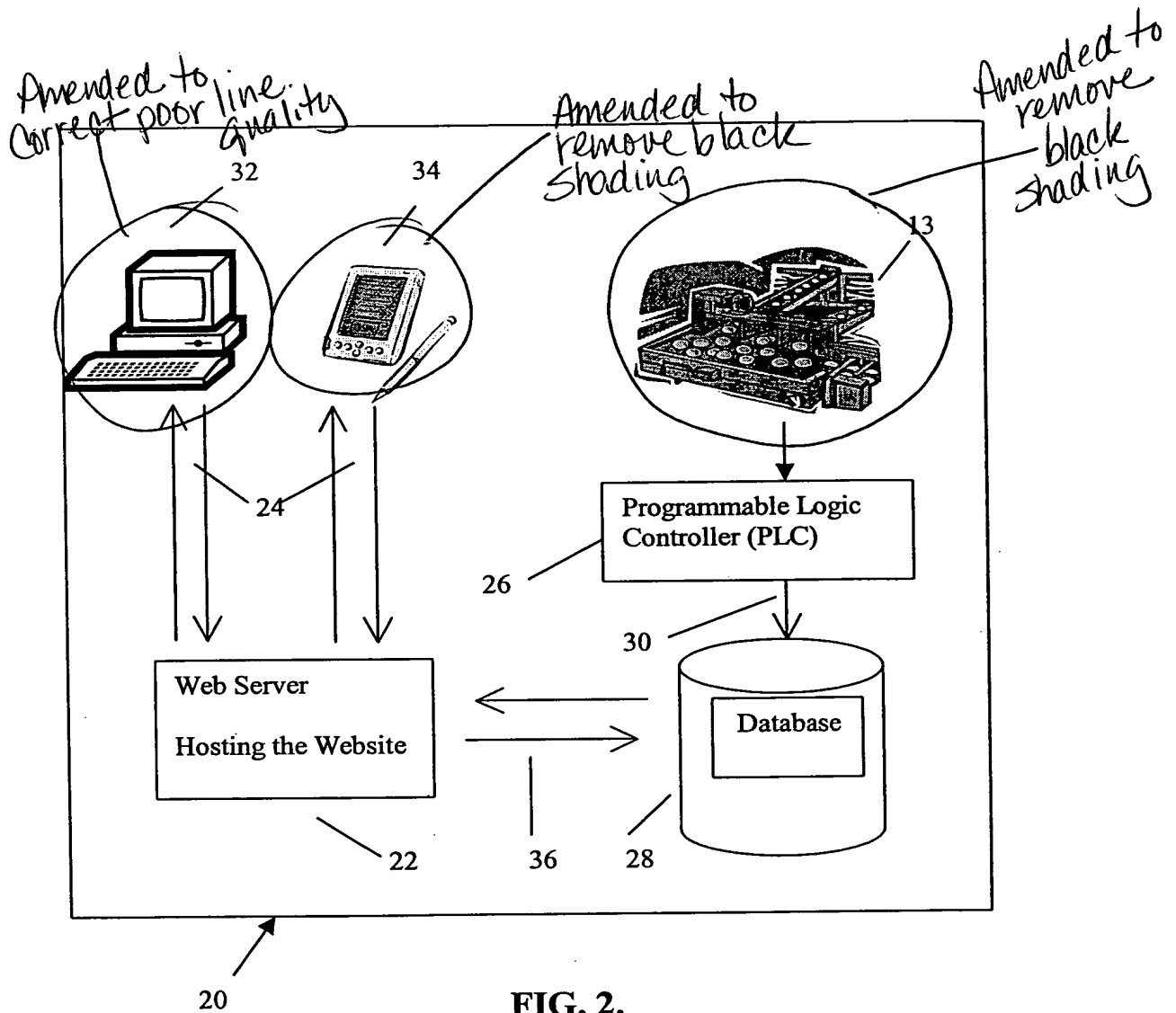
Attorney for Applicants

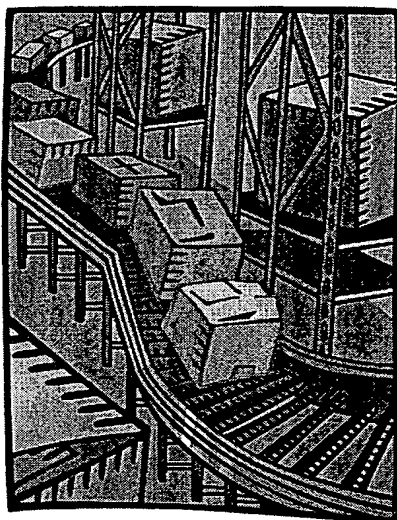
RYNDAK & SURI LLP
200 West Madison Street
Suite 2100
Chicago, IL 60606
312 214-7770 telephone
312 214-7715 facsimile

Attachments



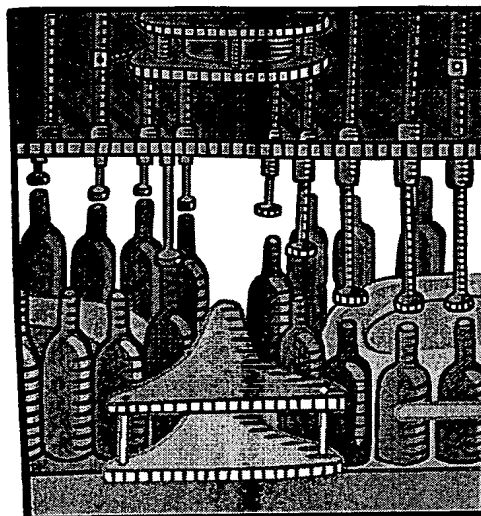
Corrected on Replacement Sheet
to show labelling of blocks.





40

FIG. 3A



42

FIG. 3B

Amended to
remove poor line quality
and remove black shading

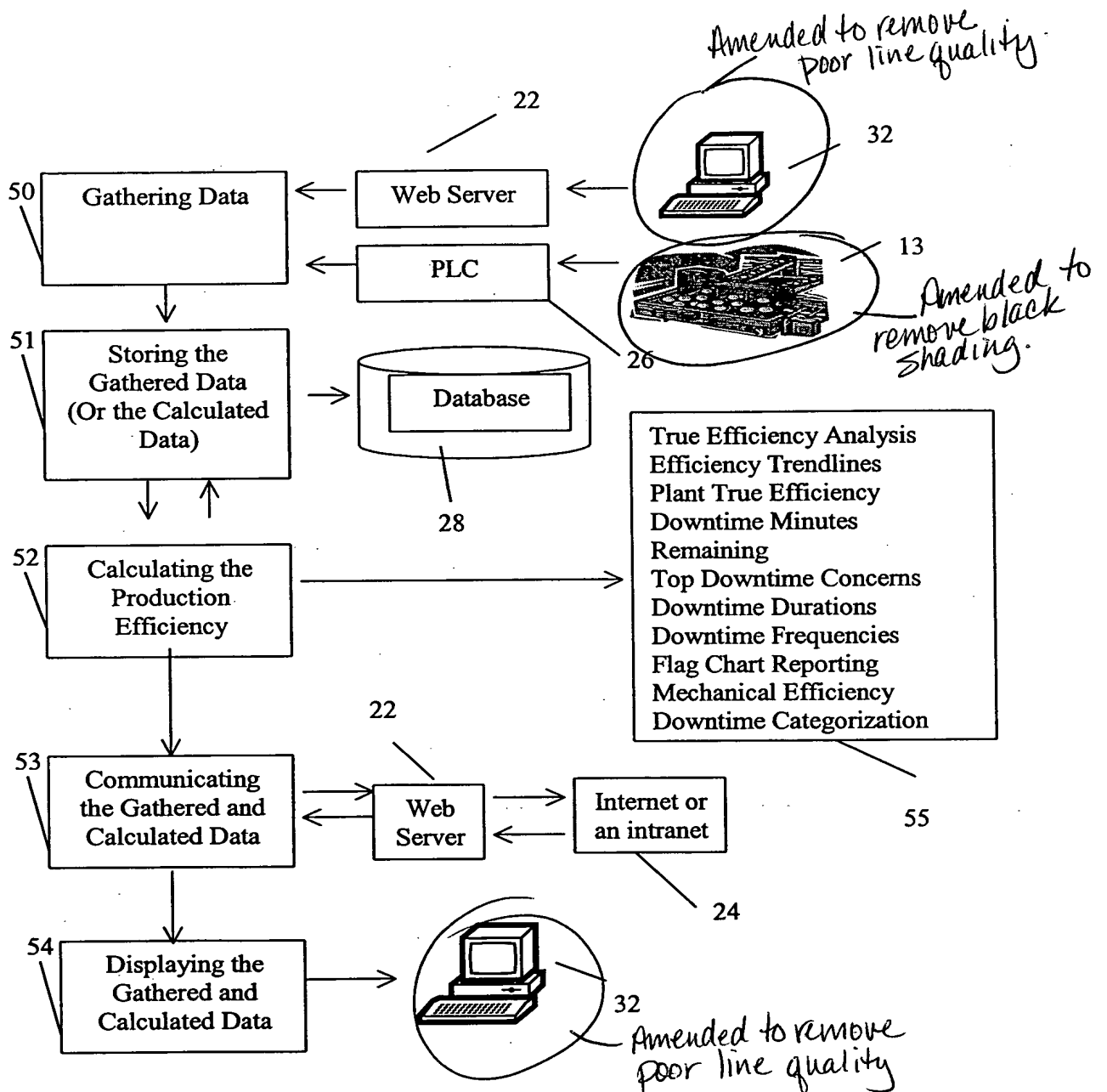


FIG. 4.

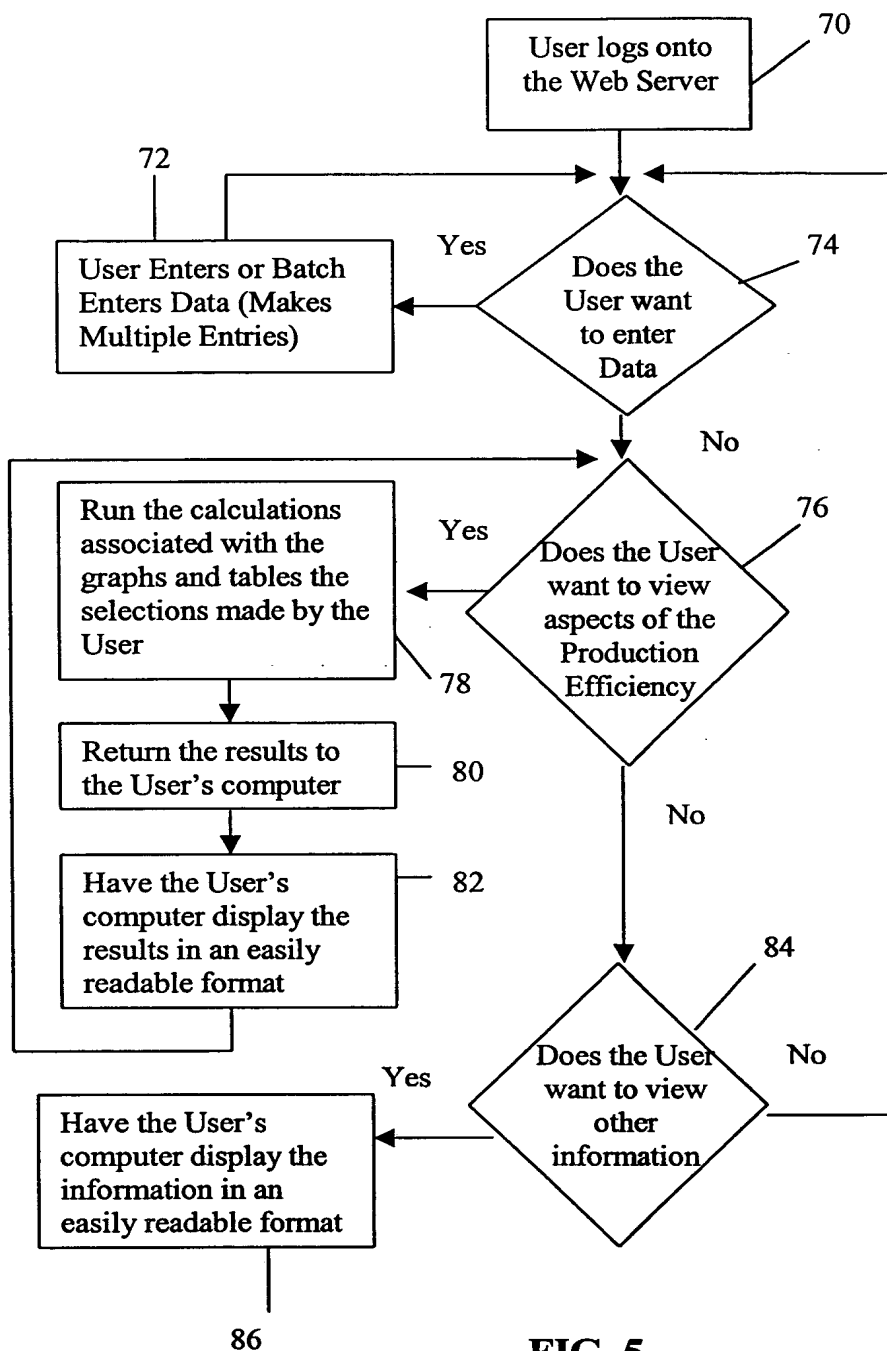
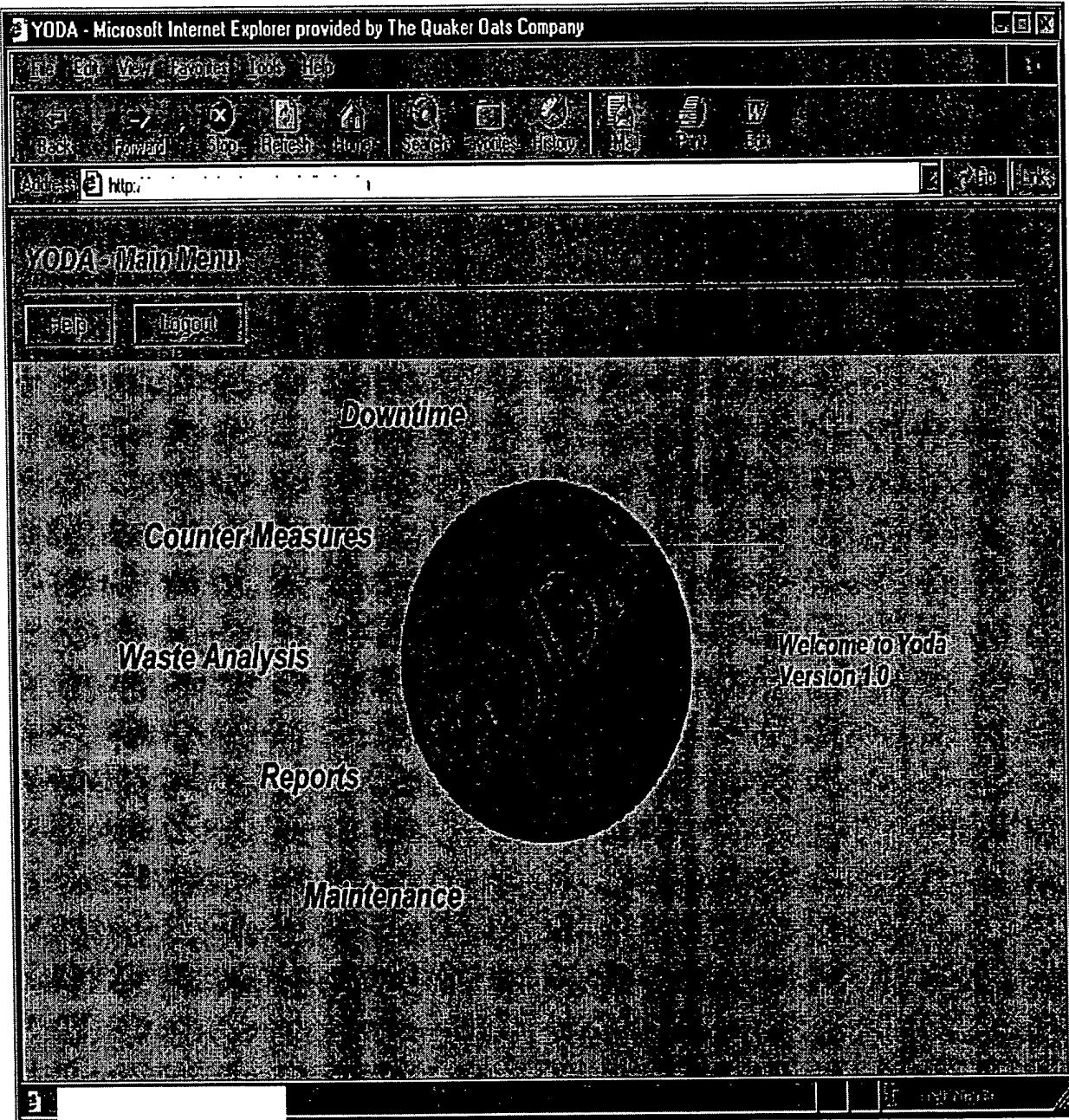


FIG. 5.

Revised to keep uniform line, numbering, format & style, as with all other Replacement Sheets.



100

FIG. 6.

Amended to remove
poor line quality and
black shading.

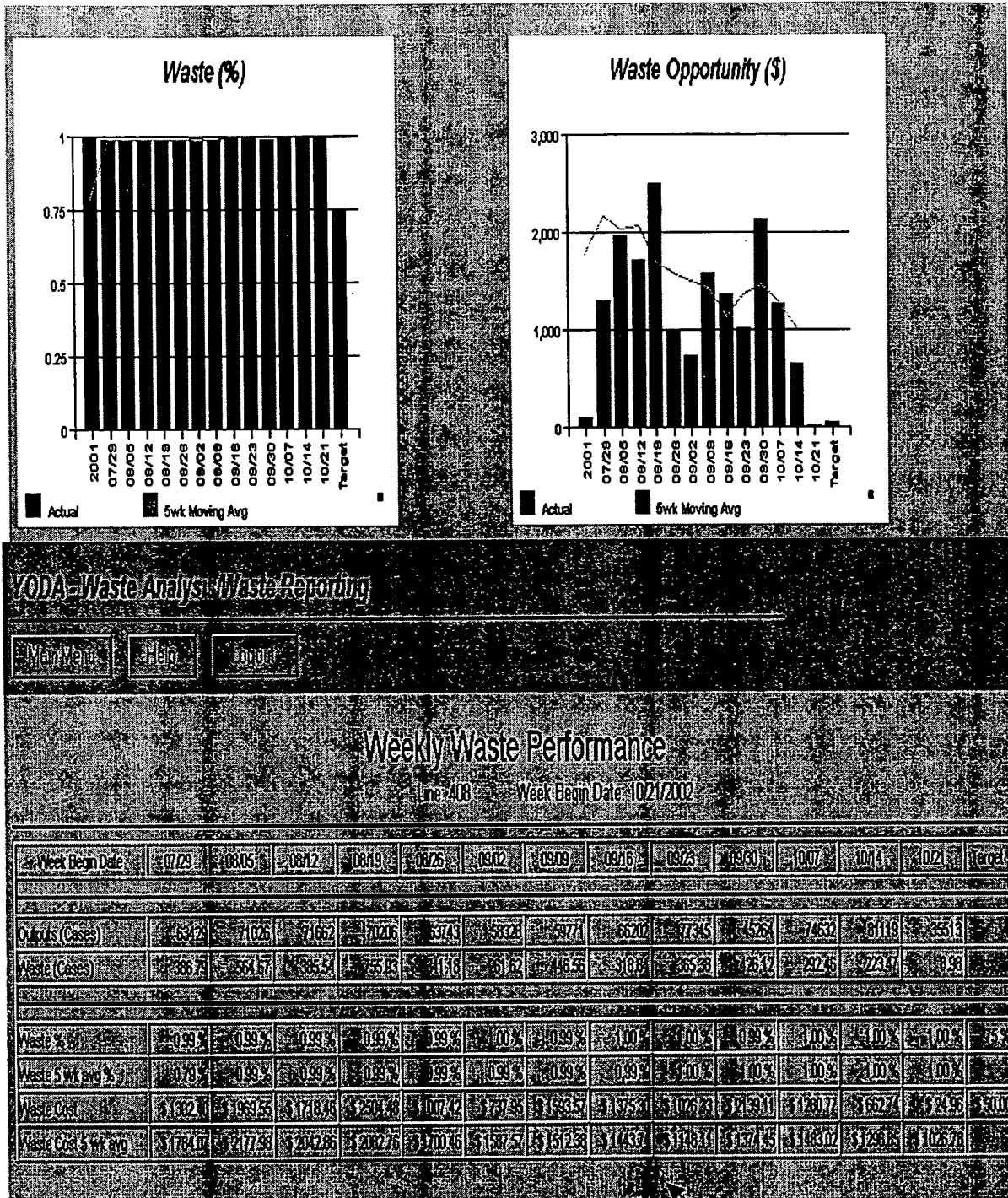


FIG. 7.

Amended to remove poor line quality and black shading.

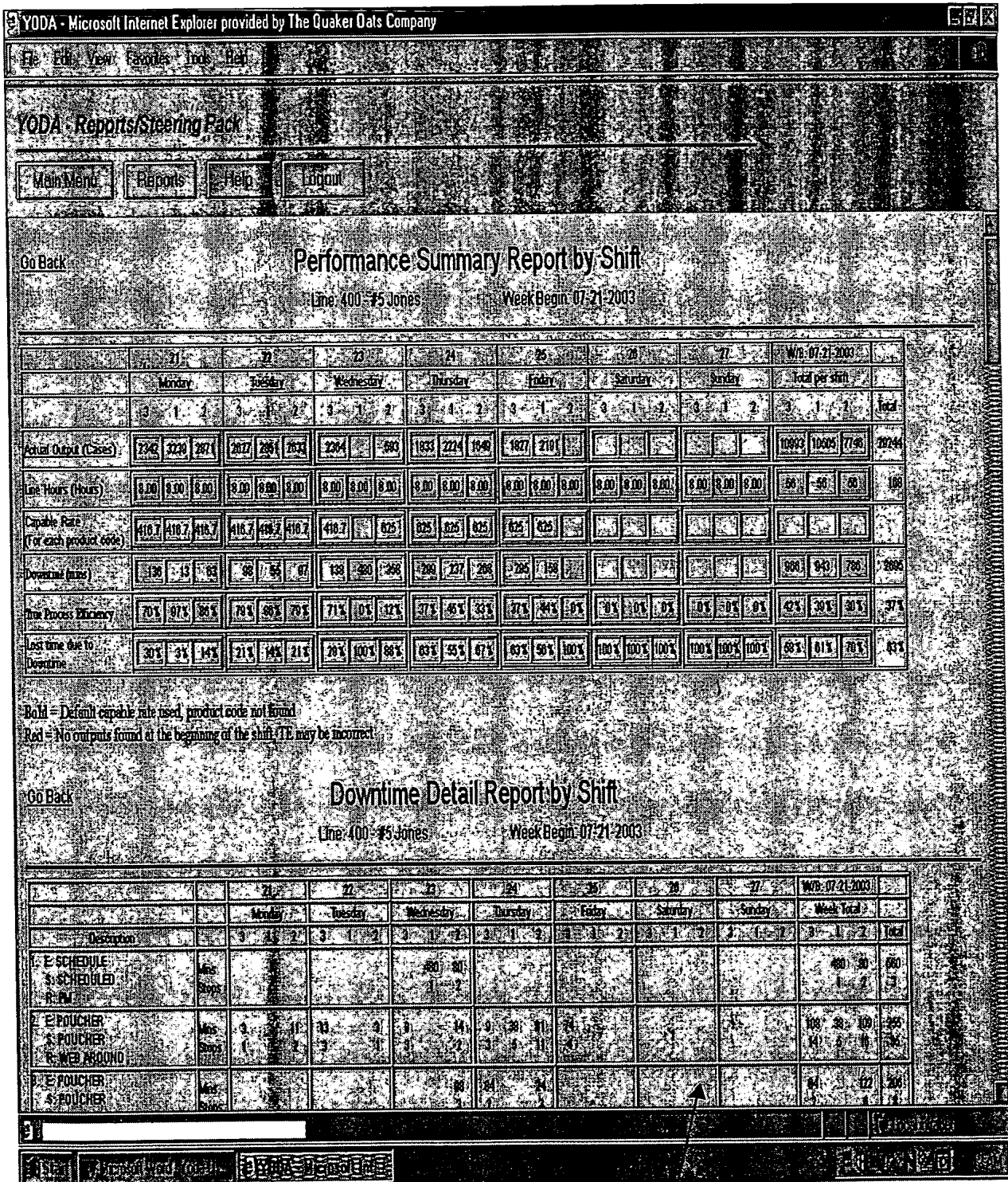
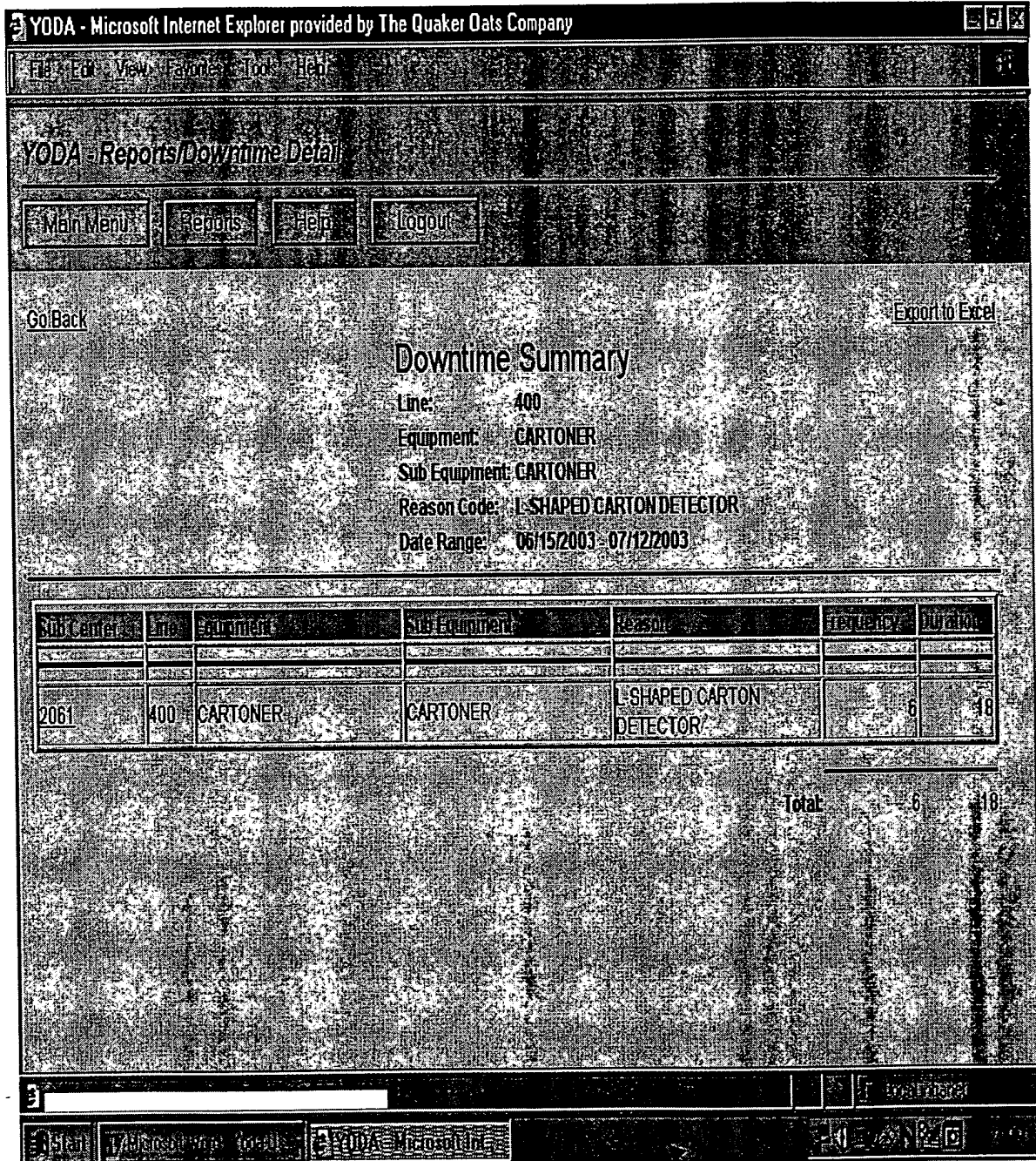


FIG. 8.

Amended to remove poor line quality and black shading.



130

FIG. 9.

Amended to remove poor line quality and black shading.